Nixon Distorting History, Former Prosecutor Says

NEW YORK, May 7 (AP)—Former Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski says Richard Nixon's admission that he "let the country down" isn't enough to right his wrongs.

Writing in the current issue of Newsweek magazine, Jaworski denounced Nixon's claim that "technically I did not commit a crime."

"Why," he asked, "if Mr. Nixon only made mistakes and was not criminally culpable, did he seek a pardon and embrace it? This is not the course of innocent people . . .

"All 38 members of the House Judiciary Committee considering articles of impeachment, including 10 Republicans who had been Nixon's defenders, some of them his closest friends and devotees, agreed that he was guilty of a crime—of obstruction of justice.

"These are hard facts. They cannot be diluted by the passage of time. They cannot be erased by the belated efforts of the man who created them . . . I sympathize with his lot. But I cannot concur in his effort to distort historical facts."

The comments written for Newsweek represent a modification of Jaworski's views.

On April 23, 1975, for instance, Jaworski said Nixon could not have received a fair trial on the obstruction-of-justice issue. On Oct. 16, 1975, he said that nowhere in the Special Prosecution Force final Watergate report was there any criminal evidence against Nixon.